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AUGUST 15, 1950  
625th BROADCAST

# Town Meeting



BULLETIN OF AMERICA'S TOWN MEETING OF THE AIR

Broadcast by Stations of the American Broadcasting Co.



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## Is Party Politics Threatening Our Security?

Guest Moderator, CLARENCE R. DECKER

*Speakers*

JOSEPH R. McCARTHY

JOHN R. WALSH

(See also page 12)

COMING

August 22, 1950

Should We Rearm Germany and Japan?

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### THE BROADCAST OF AUGUST 22:

#### "Should We Rearm Germany and Japan?"



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# Town Meeting

BULLETIN OF AMERICA'S TOWN MEETING OF THE AIR

GEORGE V. DENNY, JR., MODERATOR



AUGUST 15, 1950

VOL. 16, No. 16

## Is Party Politics Threatening Our Security?

### Announcer:

Tonight, your Town Meeting originates from Green Bay, Wisconsin, in the heart of the vacation land for which Wisconsin is famous. We are the guests of the Green Bay Junior Chamber of Commerce and Radio Station WDUZ. They send greetings to their fellow Jaycees and member stations of the ABC network from coast to coast.

Green Bay is one of the Nation's oldest cities. Its history began in 1634, and in its more than 300 years it has become one of the Great Lakes' most important harbors. Green Bay is also noted for its diversified industries, mainly, paper manufacturing and world-famous Wisconsin cheese. And every football fan knows it as the home of the Green Bay Packers.

Now, to preside over our discussion in the absence of George V. Denny, Jr., here is our guest moderator, Dr. Clarence R. Decker, the president of the University of Kansas City. Dr. Decker. (*Applause*)

### Moderator Decker:

Ladies and gentlemen, we speak to you tonight from Green Bay, Wisconsin, on the northwest shore of Lake Michigan. The French voyageur, Jean Nicolet, was the first white man to come here. That was in 1634. Today, it is a flourishing business community, the gateway to the popular northern Wisconsin resort area, and famous to millions of Americans as the home of the Green Bay Packers.

Our hosts are Radio Station WDUZ and the enterprising Junior Chamber of Commerce, who have brought together a magnificent audience in this attractive auditorium of West High School.



Our question is concerned with the ever interesting subject of politics. In no country are political parties so carefully and so thoroughly organized as in the United States. For good, or for ill, they pervade every department of our political life.

They penetrate deeply into the lives of our people, and they exert a constant influence upon our minds. It has often been said that our political parties are so powerful that they constitute a second and unofficial government, masterminding the legal government created by the Constitution.

Since political parties run our government, we are all interested in who runs the political parties, for government is good only if the parties are good, if they have wise leadership, and if they rise to their highest loyalties.

None of us would say that political parties always put the national above the party interest. Only yesterday, Republicans charged Democrats with complete responsibility for the Asia crisis and with playing politics with home-front mobilization. And today, Democrats are undoubtedly replying in kind.

As our world hovers uncertainly between global war and peace, we are more than ever concerned with tonight's question, "Is Party Politics Threatening Our Security?" Our first speaker is Representative John R. Walsh, Democrat, former Deputy Attorney General of Indiana, ex-service man, and now member of the House Armed Services Committee. The whole Nation today has heard and read about Congressman John Walsh's dramatic flight to Washington to present his bill for reinstating two mail deliveries a day.

Congressman Walsh was en route to Green Bay last night, when he received word that it was necessary for him to return to Washington immediately. He was faced with the problem of being in two places at once. Thanks to the modern miracle of transportation and the weatherman, Mr. Walsh flew to Washington this morning in time to introduce his legislation, and he returned to Green Bay just a few minutes ago, in order to keep his Town Meeting commitment. Congressman Walsh. (Applause)

### **Congressman Walsh:**

Ladies and gentlemen, party politics is most certainly threatening our national security. It is unfortunate that the Korean war occurred at this time, as it is a campaign year, and an important campaign year, at that. Both political parties

have been quick to change all of their previous plans for the campaign and now are endeavoring to gauge the feelings of the American voters.

I, for one, have insisted since the invasion of South Korea that this overt act by the North Korean Government could be a blessing in disguise to this Nation of ours and to the world. I mean by this that it could awaken America to the danger that we face. And if we seize upon these precious minutes instead of clinging to petty wants, politics, profits as usual, butter, automobiles, ice boxes, washing machines, etc.—if the American people will arise to the occasion, and if our political parties can lay aside personal partisanship, the Korean situation could very likely be a blessing, because it may give us a few precious months to prepare for the advent of a third world war in case it should occur.

There is only one possibility, as I see it, of preventing a world-wide conflict, and that is by strength—strength of the military might of this great Nation of ours and our valued allies in the field. However, since that day in June, we have seen the American people as a whole accept the stark realities of life and agree to make the sacrifices necessary to win this conflict and to hope for peace.

My mail, that of an individual member of the House of Representatives, reflects the feelings of the people. The people are insisting that Congress do something in this time of emergency. The American people are willing to make sacrifices. They are willing to give up personal pleasures and personal needs, recognizing that we are on the very verge of a third and possibly last world war.

However, in the past week, I have picked at random in preparation for this meeting tonight some of the headlines in the Washington newspapers. As examples, and eliminating the names: "Representative Blank blames the Democrats for the Red action in Korea." "Isolationist Republicans caused Korean War." "Truman's War Goes Badly." "The United Nations Wrecked Because of the GOP."

On the floor of the House of Representatives, I heard one of the leading members of that party blame the Administration for this war, World War I, World War II, bad crops, bad weather, and everything else that's bad. Now, we all recognize that mistakes have been made by both political parties in the past, and no doubt as long as we have two political parties—and we hope that we always shall—we will always



make mistakes, because it's human to make mistakes, but we can also profit by these mistakes.

We have been given the opportunity here in America twice to win two world wars because of our strength and our ingenuity. Ladies and gentlemen, it's time for us to close our ranks.

The Republican party and its members of Congress did not insist that we leave our armies intact in Asia in 1945 as a protection against the future of Russian aggression. I do not recall that the Republicans in the 80th Congress opposed our bringing the boys back home. I do not recall any opposition—material opposition—to the bipartisan foreign policy. I think the distinguished Senator from Wisconsin here is a supporter of the bipartisan policy.

As long as a bipartisan policy worked satisfactorily, we all claimed the credit for it, and now that some reverses have been had in the field, the blame has been placed upon the Administration in power. (*Applause*)

#### **Moderator Decker:**

Thank you, Congressman Walsh. Our second speaker is Senator Joseph R. McCarthy, Republican, of Wisconsin, former Wisconsin judge and ex-Marine Corps captain, who was born on a farm not far from Green Bay. His recent charges about Communists in the Democratic Administration have focused the Nation's attention on tonight's question. Senator McCarthy. (*Applause*)

#### **Senator McCarthy:**

I thank you very much. It is certainly well tonight to inquire whether party politics is the cause of this country's present grave danger. To get the answer, let's look at the record.

Five years ago, this Nation had the most powerful military force this earth had ever seen assembled. It could easily have rolled across the Elbe River, beyond the Ural Mountains to the Pacific, with only a temporary stop-off by one of Patton's armored columns to clean out Korea. Today, we are actually being beaten by a nation so small you can hardly find it on the map. Now, is this because of party politics?

The record shows that when the Republicans controlled both Houses and when the Democrats have controlled both Houses, they gave the President every bit of power, every cent of money which he wanted, whether it was for the military or the plans of the State Department.

Now, let's deal briefly with the major foreign policy failures which are the prime cause of today's sorry mess. International communism, as you all know, has long had two major aims as a necessary prelude to war with America: No. 1, the creation of a Red China; No. 2, the creation of a Red Poland.

The recorded facts on Poland are clear and simple. When the fight between the Communists and the anti-Communists in Poland—when that fight was touch and go—the Communists asked us for a loan of 19 million dollars. This request was made through Dean Acheson's law firm to Dean Acheson, then Assistant Secretary of State, who admitted under oath that he had the power to make or deny that loan.

President Roosevelt's Democratic Ambassador to Poland, Arthur Bliss Lane, in a recorded document, begged the State Department to refuse money to communist Poland, pointing out that it would result in a communist domination of Christian Poland.

If Acheson made the loan, his law firm got a fee of \$50,000. When the Communists took over Poland, and then Roosevelt's Ambassador resigned and wrote the story of the betrayal in his book, *I Saw Poland Betrayed*. Now, ladies and gentlemen, some good rough Republican politics might have saved Poland at that time.

In China, when the outcome was in doubt between the communists and the anti-Communists, General Marshall was sent there with secret State Department instructions. While there, Marshall sadly commented. He said, "As Chief of Staff, I armed 29 anti-Communist Divisions. Now, with a stroke of the pen, I must disarm them." He referred to the embargo on all ammunition to China.

Now, while the voice was the voice of Marshall, the hand was the hand of the same State Department crowd responsible for the sell-out in Poland. When the Communists took over China, finally, then our Secretary of State publicly stated, and I quote him verbatim. He said, "A new day has dawned in Asia." Now, again, some good rough Republican politics might have saved China at that time.

When the Congress voted ten million dollars to arm South Korea last year, again the State Department stepped in and only—listen to this, if you will—only \$200 of that ten million dollars was spent. That was spent for some baling wire which never got there.

And now to Yalta—where the plot was born. Acheson's



man, Hiss, and Gromyko, drafted the Yalta agreement. (When this agreement, the Democratic Ambassador said, "When I read it, I could hardly believe my eyes. Every line of it spoke a complete surrender to Stalin." Again, we could have used some good rough American politics in Yalta at that time.)

Ladies and gentlemen, why the sell-out to communism in both the East and West? My answer is and has been, "Because of the stooges and dupes of the Kremlin, who are doing our planning for us in the State Department." Now, the only other alternative is that those men were inconceivably incompetent.

In either event, whether we are losing because of traitors or incompetence, the time has come for a house cleaning. We cannot, ladies and gentlemen, fight world communism with planners who are either traitors or are hip deep in their own failures. (Applause)

#### **Moderator Decker:**

Thank you, Senator McCarthy. Now, before we take questions from the audience, would you gentlemen like to make any additional comments? Senator McCarthy, do you want to ask a question first?

**Senator McCarthy:** Yes, I'd like to ask a question of my good Democratic friend, here. Incidentally, John is one of the "good" Democrats. (Applause) John, I'd like to ask you this question, and you may not be able to answer it, because I know you're not on the Foreign Relations Committee. One little thing that I think disturbs many Americans is this: The last official pronouncement made by our State Department by the Secretary of State was that it would be, and I quote him verbatim, "a silly venture for us to give any aid to the anti-communist forces on Formosa"—a silly venture if we tried to protect Formosa. That's his last official pronouncement. Since then, the President has ordered us to do just that and MacArthur is working with Chiang Kai-shek. Is it your thought now that our policy, in so far as Formosa is concerned is now the Truman policy which he has announced, is it the Acheson policy which he has announced, or will we follow General Douglas MacArthur—and I hope the latter?

**Congressman Walsh:** Well, Senator McCarthy, I don't think it's a Truman policy or an Acheson policy. I think it's a policy that has been laid down due to the overt acts of Joe Stalin. We've had the invasion of Korea since the pronouncement of the Secretary of State. We have seen Korea invaded. W



have seen the 38th parallel crossed since that statement was made, and the conditions have been changed. Oh yes, that's right.

**Moderator Decker:** We will come back to this question a little later, but I want Mr. Walsh to have an opportunity to ask Senator McCarthy a question.

**Senator McCarthy:** First, let me correct you, John. After the invasion of Korea, Acheson still stated that our policy toward Formosa was not changed. Truman announced the change at 2:00 o'clock one morning—roughly, then. The night before that, after the Reds were in South Korea, Acheson said, "Our policy toward Formosa has not changed." That's all a matter of record.

**Congressman Walsh:** At that moment, however, Senator, Korea had just been invaded. At 2:00 o'clock the next afternoon, there had been a chance for conference. I think that the Secretary of State and our President are united at this time.

**Moderator Decker:** Well, I think this is a magnificent question for a whole Town Meeting, and perhaps we can put it in the program some other time. Now, Congressman Walsh, will you ask Senator McCarthy a question?

**Congressman Walsh:** Of course, we are all interested, Senator, in your charges of communism in the State Department. We've had some little study made, and I have made some study of the Tydings report. I see that Senator Tydings, who is on the Armed Services Committee, seriously disagrees with you. He says in substance that you had the opportunity to present your story to the Committee and that you failed to substantiate one single charge that you had made that there were hard-carrying Communist party members within the State Department.

**Moderator Decker:** Would you like to answer?

**Senator McCarthy:** Certainly. Well, John, he went further than that. He said that none of the men I named were either pro-communists, communists, or in any way disloyal to this Government. Apparently, he forgot one of the cases, Case No. 19, which he refused to take the evidence on—Mr. William Remington. That case was taken up by the House Committee, luckily. The House Committee did a good job, turned the information over to the grand jury, and the grand jury indicted this man—indicted him on perjury in connection with his communistic activities.

**Congressman Walsh:** May I interrupt—?

**Senator McCarthy:** No, no, no, let me answer first. Mr. Tydings said, however, that this man has no evidence of being a Communist in his records. Let me give you one other one quickly. Another one is Owen Lattimore—Owen Lattimore, the State Department adviser, the man who said, "Let South Korea fall, but don't let the people know we pushed her." (*Noise of crowd*) Now, we presented the pictures, the photographs, showing that Owen Lattimore lectured the communist troops at Yen-an, that he lived with Mao Tze-tung, the head of the Communists, but Mr. Tydings, Mr. Tydings said he never knowingly associated with Communists. (*Applause*)

**Moderator Decker:** Now, while we get ready for our question period, here is a message for our Town Hall listeners.

**Announcer:** Tonight's broadcast of Town Meeting from Green Bay, Wisconsin, is one of our 26 programs this year which originates away from New York. It has been our policy to present half of the programs each year from different cities in all parts of the country. In this way, we help make it truly America's Town Meeting and give you, our listeners, an opportunity to see the program in action.

Although our dates are filled for the remainder of the summer, perhaps we can include your city on a future tour. We will welcome hearing from you if you are an official of a representative local organization.

Next week, your Town Meeting will be broadcast from Milwaukee, for the Fraternal Order of Eagles. On the following Tuesday, August 29, the program originates from Glencoe, Illinois, on September 5, from Port Huron, Michigan, and on September 12, from Yankton, South Dakota.

For questions from our audience, we return you to our Guest Moderator, Dr. Clarence Decker.



## QUESTIONS, PLEASE!

*Dr. Decker:* Now, before we turn to the questions from the audience, I am going to give Congressman Walsh an opportunity to make one more comment on what we were talking about a few moments ago.

*Congressman Walsh:* Thanks, Doctor. It's my opinion that Senator here has been misinformed about Mr. Remington. He was an employee of the Commerce Department, not of the State Department. (*Applause*) And I want to also say that the Tydings Committee report at no time branded or found any evidence that Owen Lattimore was ever a Communist or a Communist sympathizer, and I don't think, Senator, you ever proved to the satisfaction of the public or the United States Senate and this Committee that there were any card-carrying members or sympathizers in the State Department. (*Applause and boos from audience*)

*Dr. Decker:* Just a brief comment from Senator McCarthy.

*Senator McCarthy:* Now, don't boo my friend John, here, who was sent over from the National Headquarters to do this. There's no question but what Mr. Remington, while ironically being paid by the Commerce Department, was working with Michael Lee in the State Department, holding the shipments to the anti-Communist forces in the Asiatic area. And that is why Remington was named, and that is why, thank God, he was indicted. (*Applause*)

*Dr. Decker:* And now for questions from the audience. I have a question for Congressman Walsh.

*Man:* Congressman, based on the record of incompetency and blundering in Asia, what else but politics is keeping Secretary Johnson and Dean Acheson in office?

*Congressman Walsh:* You know, hindsight is a wonderful thing to have now, Mr. Professor. A lot of people now are looking back upon the mistakes that have been made, both in the State Department and by our Secretary of Defense. And I think that they admit that there have been mistakes. But, by the same analogy, more than one-half the members of the Congress of the United States should immediately resign because of the mistakes that they have made since the last time, 1945. (*Applause*)

*Dr. Decker:* We have a question for Senator McCarthy.

*Man:* Senator McCarthy, what kind of politics is it when certain legislators condemn the State Department for our failure to aid Korea, but voted against any such aid to Korea?

*Senator McCarthy:* I'm afraid I won't be able to answer that. As far as I know, the vast majority of the Republicans and Democrats voted for aid to South Korea. We voted first for \$75 million, then we voted for \$10,300,000, and I do not know of any Democratic or Republican vote that was raised against it. It was only when the State Department got the job administering that program that then it was sabotaged—it was neither the Democrats nor the Republicans in the Congress who sabotaged it. (*Applause*)

*Dr. Decker:* Representative Walsh wishes to make a comment on that.

## THE SPEAKERS' COLUMN

**CLARENCE R. DECKER**—Dr. Clarence R. Decker, president of the University of Kansas City, received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1928 at the age of 23. His undergraduate work was at Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota, where he was president of the student body and college orator.

Dr. Decker taught at the University of North Dakota, Northwestern University, DePaul University, Illinois Wesleyan University, and the University of Kansas City. He has traveled widely in Europe and Asia and studied in European universities.

Dr. Decker went to the University of Kansas City in 1934 as chairman of the English department. In 1937, he was appointed vice president, and in 1938 was made president—one of the youngest university presidents in the country at that time. He is founder and editor of the *University of Kansas City Review*, a quarterly journal published by the University, and has written for scholarly journals and literary magazines.

**JOSEPH R. MCCARTHY**—Republican Senator from Wisconsin, Joseph McCarthy is Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Committee on Expenditures. A member of the firm of Eberlein and McCarthy of Shawano, he has been engaged in the practice of law since 1935, the year he graduated from Marquette University with a degree of Bachelor of Laws. He was elected to the Senate in 1946.

Senator McCarthy has served on the Senate Banking and Currency Committee and the Special Senate War Investigating Committee and was vice-chairman of the Joint Committee on Housing. A member of the U. S. Marines Air Force during World War II, he received several citations for bravery.

**JOHN R. WALSH**—Congressman Walsh (Democrat, Indiana) is a member of the House Armed Services Committee. A graduate of Indiana University (LL.B., 1934, J.D., 1939), he has been practicing law in Anderson, Indiana, since 1943. He was deputy attorney general, Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1941, and probate commissioner of Madison Circuit Court in 1948. During the Second World War, he served for two years with the Inspector General's Department of the U. S. Army.



*Congressman Walsh:* I think the Senator may be speaking to the United States Senate, but I can assure this audience tonight that the House of Representatives repudiated ECA aid by a vote of 198 to 196, as I recall the vote, and it was in January, 1950. (*Applause*)

*Mr. Decker:* Will you stay there, Mr. Walsh? We have another question for you.

*Man:* A question for Congressman Walsh. Is Marshall Plan aid to Europe being influenced by party politics?

*Congressman Walsh:* I think there's more unity on Marshall aid than any other program we have, possibly, in the Congress of the United States at this time.

*Mr. Decker:* Do you want to comment on that, Senator McCarthy?

*Senator McCarthy:* I'd like to ask John a question. John, what ECA aid or military aid for South Korea that you are talking of?

*Congressman Walsh:* Military and ECA aid combined in the same bill.

*Senator McCarthy:* Wait, just a minute, John. The item of \$100 million, the item of \$10,300,000, which is earmarked for South Korea—both of those measures went through almost unanimously in both the House and Senate. You had some Democrats, some Republicans, voting against it in the House, and some in the Senate. Am I right?

*Mr. Decker:* Please stay here, Mr. McCarthy. Here is a question for you. We'll let Congressman Walsh come in just a minute. Here's a question for Senator McCarthy.

*Man:* I've got a question here for the Senator. Has the present administration been unable to recognize the danger that existed to our security, or did they soft-pedal it for certain advantages?

*Senator McCarthy:* My thought is that it is being soft-pedaled for political reasons. I think the Democratic Administration makes a mistake. I'm going to take a half-minute on this. I think they should recognize that it is no disgrace to have Communists in government. That's the prime aim of Communists. The crime occurs when, after they've found Communists, they then protect them and keep them there for political advantages.

*Congressman Walsh:* Have they been found, Senator McCarthy? I don't think that they have been. (*Noise from crowd*)

*Senator McCarthy:* In 1939—let's take an old case—in 1939,

Alger Hiss was named under oath as a member of the Communist party and as an espionage agent. At that time, Dean Acheson said, "Don't investigate this man. I back him completely. Let this man alone." Finally, under Dean Acheson, you had him writing the Yalta Agreement. And Hiss don't come separately, they come in groups. (Applause)

*Dr. Decker:* We only have a minute or two left. I want to take this back to the audience. Here is a question for Congressman Walsh.

*Man:* If a political party makes a mistake in foreign policy is it good politics to admit the mistake and reverse its stand?

*Congressman Walsh:* Absolutely. And I think that's the only word I need to describe my views on that. (Applause)

*Senator McCarthy:* I said Walsh was one of the "good Democrats." (Laughter)

*Dr. Decker:* Thank you, Senator McCarthy, and Congressman Walsh. Now, in just a few moments, we'll tell you about our subject and speakers for next week.

*Announcer:* Today, we live in a world of momentous decision and swiftly moving events. Week after week, as you listen to the outstanding personalities that Town Meeting brings you, and as you hear them clarify the problems of the day in free and open discussion, you no doubt often wish that you could have a permanent record of the many important things that are said. This is so easy to obtain. A complete transcript of any Town Meeting in which you are especially interested will be mailed to you if you will send 10 cents coin to Town Hall, New York 18, New York. Or, perhaps you want to keep pace with all Town Meeting discussions, as most well-informed persons do. If so, send \$4.50 to Town Hall for one year's subscription to the Bulletin, or \$1, which will give you coverage for 11 weeks of the Nation's most highly regarded forum.

And now, for news of next week's program, here is our Guest Moderator, Dr. Clarence Decker.

*Dr. Decker:* Before we announce next week's important topic and speakers, I want to express on behalf of Town Hall our deep appreciation to our Green Bay hosts, the Junior Chamber of Commerce, members of the host committee, and Station WDUZ.

The war in Korea has brought into sharp focus many international hot spots. Next week, two of the most critical of these areas will receive the attention of experts when Town Meeting comes to you from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as the



est of the Fraternal Order of Eagles. Our speakers will  
Admiral Ellis M. Zacharias, author of the new book,  
*Behind Closed Doors, the Secret History of the Cold War*,  
and former Naval Deputy Director of Intelligence during  
World War II; and Cecil Brown, author, foreign correspond-  
ent, and radio commentator.



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Both of these noted authorities have recently returned from tours of Europe and Asia and bring firsthand knowledge of crucial issues on those continents. Admiral Zacharias and Cecil Brown will discuss, "Should We Rearm Germany and Japan?" I shall again have the privilege of being with you as Guest Moderator. So plan to be with us next week and every week at the sound of the Crier's bell. (Applause)